



ULTRAGROW™

Frequently Asked Questions

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What is the UltraGrow - The UltraGrow planter insert is a highly specialized device designed specifically for the demands of container gardening. The UltraGrow's self adjusting design fits into the bottom of virtually any container, and helps to balance soil conditions. This better balance of soil moisture content, drainage and aeration helps to support and maintain healthy root development. This translates not only into healthier, better looking plants but greater tolerance to heat stress, over watering, over fertilization, poor container design and other factors that frequently impact the health and overall appearance of container grown plants.

How do I install my UltraGrow - The UltraGrow is quickly and easily installed into virtually any container. 1) The inside of the container should be free from any clumps of loose dirt or debris. 2) If the product information sticker is still on the UltraGrow, remove the sticker. 3) Place the UltraGrow right side up into the empty container and press into the bottom. The edge flanges will automatically adjust to fit the internal contours of the container. 4) Fill container with soil and pot plant as usual.

How difficult is the UltraGrow to use - The UltraGrow has been carefully designed to provide optimal growing results with no specialized care requirements. After installation, plants may be maintained as usual and still experience improved growing results. However for optimal results, water soluble fertilizers may be used and the integrated moisture reservoirs may be adjusted to better suit the needs of a specific plant variety.

How do I re-use the UltraGrow in another container - Sturdy construction and adjustable edge flanges allow the UltraGrow to be repeatedly re-used in a variety of container sizes and styles. Simply empty the container, pull the UltraGrow from the bottom of the container, wash off any soil clinging to the insert, press the insert into the new container and fill with soil as usual.

How long will the UltraGrow last - For a lifetime of use, the UltraGrow is manufactured from a premium, recyclable plastic formula with Ultra Violet inhibitors.

What plants are best suited for use with the UltraGrow - The UltraGrow helps to provide an optimal growing environment for virtually any plant ranging from cactus to tropicals, flowers to vegetables and house plants to outdoor annuals.

How does the UltraGrow help prevent lanky growth and unhealthy foliage - Again, the three basic principles of balanced soil moisture content, drainage and aeration are the key factors. Though this may seem elementary, the UltraGrow accomplishes this through a complex relationship of interactions between the features designed into the device. Unfavorable growth characteristics such as lanky stems, poor foliage density and pale leaves are potentially the manifestation of a whole host of factors, ranging from excess nitrogen (from fertilizer applications) to inadequate lighting conditions, to poor root system health, even outright neglect. However, with the exception of poor lighting and outright neglect, most of these issues can be compensated for with the use of the UltraGrow planter insert. Specific details regarding the functionality and use of the UltraGrow's special features can be found throughout this document. In house studies under identical conditions have shown marked improvements in the foliage density, number of blooms and overall plant appearance, when compared to identical plants grown without the UltraGrow planter insert.

My plants appear to be growing fine, why should I use the UltraGrow - The features of the UltraGrow help to provide more favorable growing conditions in virtually any container. The improved balance of soil moisture content, drainage and aeration can help boost growing performance. In many instances this means increased foliage density, increased blooming and a more robust overall appearance.

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What Containers are best suited for use with the UltraGrow - The UltraGrow was carefully engineered to benefit virtually any container, whether clay, concrete, fiberglass, polyurethane foam or plastic. However, if the container lacks drain holes, it is highly recommended that holes be drilled into the bottom of the container to receive maximum benefit from the UltraGrow planter insert.

How do I know what containers the Ultra Grow will fit into - The UltraGrow planter inserts has been designed in three size groups.

The Green UltraGrow planter insert is intended for use with most house plants, flowers and small vegetables, and fits common terracotta pot sizes ranging from 8 - 14 inches. Additionally, the Green UltraGrow fits virtually any specialty/decorative container with a base measuring 5 - 9 1/8 inches across.

The Yellow UltraGrow planter insert is intended for use with most medium to large house plants, flowers, shrubs and vegetables, and fits common terracotta sizes ranging from 14 - 22 inches. Additionally, the Yellow UltraGrow fits virtually any specialty/decorative container with a base measuring 9 1/8 - 16 1/8 inches across.

The Magenta UltraGrow planter insert is intended for use with most large house plants, shrubs, vegetables and small trees, and fits common terracotta sizes ranging from 22 - 30 inches. Additionally, the Magenta UltraGrow fits virtually any specialty/decorative container with a base measuring 16 1/8 - 24 1/8 inches across.

Is the UltraGrow suitable for growing Cactus and other plants that prefer dry conditions - Yes, any plant that does not tolerate excess soil moisture will benefit from the UltraGrow's ability to rapidly purge excess water and provide significantly increased aeration to the root zone. The UltraGrow is easily adjusted for growing Cactus, succulents, orchids and other plants that do not tolerate overly moist soil. (for more, see the heading on Adjusting the UltraGrow for dry conditions)

How can the UltraGrow be effective when it's supposed to fit so many container sizes - The key is the complex relationship between the size and length of the flexible edge flanges, the drainage and aeration slits between these flanges, the fixed drainage and aeration slits and the volume of the moisture reservoirs.

Generally speaking, small containers usually suffer from rapid moisture loss (typically due to plants being too large for the container, coupled with an already small volume of soil). When the UltraGrow is installed into a small container, the flexible edge flanges fold upward, conforming to the smaller internal diameter of the container. This ability to automatically adapt to the container size also favorably adjusts the ratio of drainage, aeration and moisture reserves for the smaller container and its smaller volume of soil. The result is a significant increase in moisture reserves relative to the soil volume and a reduction in drainage/aeration slit surface area, providing a beneficial ratio of moisture, drainage and aeration to the smaller container.

In larger containers, the increased soil volume already provides a greater moisture holding capacity and contrary to smaller containers, rapid drying is typically less of an issue. However, over watering, over fertilizing and other factors contribute to poor root system health and can create major problems that significantly impact plant health and growing performance. When the UltraGrow is installed in a larger container, the flexible edge flanges are required to fold less, thus increasing the ratio of drainage/aeration comparative to the moisture reserves. This increased drainage/aeration surface area, provides a beneficial ratio of drainage and aeration to the larger container, while the role of the moisture reservoirs are proportionately diminished, due to the containers already greater capacity to hold moisture within the larger volume of soil.

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How does the UltraGrow help protect my plants from over watering - The 40 integrated drainage/aeration slits quickly evacuate excess water then allow air to circulate into the root zone, helping to discourage root rot, mold and fungal infections.

How often should I water with the UltraGrow installed - Common sense plant care still applies, even with the UltraGrow installed. Watering requirements will vary widely depending upon location, temperature, relative humidity, plant type, plant size and container type. Additionally, very few plants tolerate excessively moist soil conditions for extended periods of time. For this reason it is recommended to only water when the soil feels generally dry to the touch an inch below the surface. After several weeks, it is reasonably easy to develop a feel for the watering requirements of any given plant. It should also be noted that even with the UltraGrow's ability to rapidly purge excess moisture and provide increased aeration to the root system, it is still possible to over water and cause damage to the plants root system. However, with common sense this situation will not be experienced.

How do I adjust the weep holes for growing plants that prefer dry conditions or require rapid drainage - Before installing the UltraGrow into the container, use a pen, pencil or other pointed object to perforate the sealed weep holes. This will allow excess moisture to dissipate more quickly from the moisture reservoirs. The number of weep holes perforated will depend upon the plants tolerance to moisture and the plants location. For example, a Cactus grown on a hot roof top terrace in Arizona, would benefit from leaving a few weep holes sealed to retain moisture, verses the same plant in a much cooler climate.

How do I adjust the weep holes for growing plants that prefer very moist conditions - The moisture reservoir weep holes are already pre-adjusted to suit the needs of most house plants and outdoor annuals. If greater moisture reserves are needed, the weep holes located in the moisture reservoirs may be sealed by placing a dab of common household caulk on open weep holes. After the caulk dries, the UltraGrow may be installed and the container can be filled with soil and re-potted as usual.

How does the UltraGrow help protect my plants from heat stress - The five integrated moisture reservoirs, which form the base of the UltraGrow, are capable of holding nearly 8oz of water in reserve. This moisture reserve is released into the soil over an extended period of time, helping to keep the root zone cool and protected from high ambient temperatures and direct solar gain from sunshine warming the exterior of the container. The size and location of the moisture reservoirs is critical to maintaining proper plant health. The reservoirs have been designed to help off-set heat stress for a single day, rather than several days, which reduces the potential for prolonged, overly moist soil conditions. Additionally, the reservoirs are centrally located, below the aeration slits so only the deepest reaching roots will "tap" into the moisture reserves. This feature helps the plant endure high heat without over moistening the whole root system, thus helping to avoid potential root rot, mold or fungal infections.

How do I adjust the UltraGrow for use outdoors in high heat areas - If the plants are to be grown in potentially hot locations such as a sunny patio or roof top terrace and you regularly experience temperatures above 90 degrees, the UltraGrow can be a real benefit. To properly adjust the UltraGrow for these conditions it is recommended to seal all open/perforated weep holes so the moisture reservoirs may retain their maximum capacity. To do this, the weep holes should be sealed with a dab of common household caulk. When the caulk has dried, the UltraGrow may be installed and the plant potted as usual. In sunny, high heat locations, daily watering is usually needed, however it is always a good idea to check any plant before applying more water and to water only when the soil is generally dry to the touch an inch below the surface.

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Does the UltraGrow contain Fertilizer - No, UltraGrow's unique features work together to provide a better balance of natural moisture and aeration rather than relying upon chemical fertilizers.

Do you sell UltraGrow fertilizer for use with the UltraGrow planter insert - Fertilizer formulas are currently being evaluated to create a complete UltraGrow brand "growing system". However, until the UltraGrow brand fertilizer is available, the best we can recommend is selecting a quality water soluble fertilizer and apply at half strength, twice as often as the package suggests.

I use fertilizer to feed my plants, how will the UltraGrow affect this - The UltraGrow, when used in conjunction with fertilizer, typically provides significantly better growing results than using fertilizer alone with an ordinary, non UltraGrow equipped container-grown plant.

How does the UltraGrow help to protect my plants from being over fertilized - The UltraGrow is equipped with 40 dual purpose drainage/aeration slits, plus 20 weep holes. These features allow excess fertilizer to filter quickly from the roots and soil, thus reducing the opportunity for over fertilizing, burning the roots and accumulating excessive mineral build-up on the roots.

How do I flush damaging hard water and fertilizer mineral build-up from my root-system - The UltraGrow's 40 drainage/aeration slits and 20 weep holes allow safe flushing of soil and root system. Several gallons of water may be applied to the container-grown plant, the large volume of water passing through the root system will help to loosen and wash away mineral build-up from the roots. The excess water will quickly drain through the UltraGrow and the 40 aeration slits will discourage possible root rot, mold and fungal infections.

How often should I flush hard water and fertilizer mineral build-up from my root-system - If you fertilize regularly, flushing the soil and root system four times a year is recommended. We suggest this schedule: Earl Spring, Summer, Mid-Summer, Fall.

What type of fertilizer should I use - Always read the label and remember that cheap rarely means good. For general purpose growing, we recommend a water soluble, balanced formula (20-20-20... 12-12-12, etc.) with micro nutrients and trace elements (magnesium, copper, iron, manganese, zinc, etc.). For vegetables, flowering plants, cactus and palm trees, the formulas will vary widely. The best advice we can give is to select a water soluble formula complete with micro nutrients and trace elements.

How often should I fertilize and how much should I use - For optimal growing results, we recommend applying a quality water soluble fertilizer (as described in the previous heading) at half strength but twice as often as the directions on the package indicate.

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